

House Passes America COMPETES Reauthorization, Includes Mitchell's STEM Teacher Training Bill

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today voted for H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, which helps boost U.S. economic competitiveness by making investments in science, innovation, and education. H.R. 5116 passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 262 to 150, and included a provision sponsored by Mitchell to strengthen the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program to train teachers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

"As a former teacher, I know how important it is to our economy to make science, technology, engineering and math education a priority," said Mitchell. "This legislation will not only strengthen science, technology, engineering and math - STEM -- education, but it will also help ensure that our nation will remain competitive and create good paying jobs in an era of technological innovation."

H.R. 5116 makes investments in science, innovation, and education to strengthen the U.S. scientific and economic leadership, support employers, and create jobs in the short-, mid-, and long-term. These investments will bolster U.S. scientific and economic leadership, support businesses, and create jobs for American workers. Additionally, this bill will expand and strengthen STEM education programs at all levels of education, ultimately strengthening America's workforce and making American more competitive in the global market.

H.R. 5116 also includes legislative language sponsored by Mitchell to amend the Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, a program to train future STEM teachers, to reduce the cost-sharing requirement for participating colleges and universities during these tough economic times.

"The investments in STEM must be made throughout our education system, including the earliest grades when students first develop interests that can lead to future careers," Mitchell said. "Innovation is the key to our future economic prosperity, and it begins in the classroom with qualified and highly motivated teachers working to inspire and develop young students."

Over 750 organizations have endorsed the legislation, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Business Roundtable, the Council on Competitiveness, the Association of American Universities, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, TechNet, American Council on Education and American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Last week, Mitchell toured a local elementary school to highlight the economic and educational benefits of STEM education.

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